

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 16 and 22 in accordance with the following:

Claims 1-15 (cancelled)

16. (currently amended) An apparatus for data acquisition for a control center, comprising:

a control and monitoring system directly controlling operational states of a device, coupled to said apparatus, via control signals;

at least one input interface to supply input signals;

a transmitting/receiving unit;

a signal processing unit, coupled to said at least one input interface, to perform signal processing of the input signals to derive output data in accordance with a first set of predetermined rules, said signal processing unit including a data analysis unit to record selected input signals at predetermined ~~interruption~~ times in accordance with recording rules defined in advance by the control center for short-term monitoring of information derived from the input signals; and

an output interface, coupled to said signal processing unit, to supply the output data from said signal processing unit to said transmitting/receiving unit for at least one of automatic transmission and transmission initiated on request.

17. (previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 16, further comprising at least one writeable memory to store at least one of an operating system for the apparatus and the recording rules remotely loaded via said transmitting/receiving unit.

18. (previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 16, further comprising a data converter, coupled between said at least one input interface and said signal processing unit, to remove distortion from the input signals and to provide a standard data format for the input signals.

19. (previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 18, further comprising an address allocation unit, coupled between said at least one input interface and said data converter to convert source-specific addresses of the input signals to an address format of said data converter.

20. (previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein the apparatus is installed in a mobile vehicle operated by one of a motor and an engine and has a generator of a supply voltage, and

wherein the apparatus further comprises:

a power supply connection coupled to the generator of the supply voltage in the vehicle, said transmitting/receiving unit and said signal processing unit; and

a detection unit, coupled to said power supply connection and to said data analysis unit, to detect at least whether the generator of the supply voltage is in operation, and to interrupt said data analysis unit when the generator of the supply voltage is not in operation.

21. (previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 20,

further comprising a memory, coupled to the signal processing unit, to store a second set of predetermined rules, and

wherein said signal processing unit further includes a data processing unit to record information data derived from the input signals in accordance with the second set of predetermined rules.

22. (currently amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 21, wherein said memory has a first memory area containing a first subset of the second set of predetermined rules for application when the generator of the supply voltage is in operation, and a second memory area containing a second subset of the second set of predetermined rules for application when the generator of the supply voltage is not in operation.

23. (previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 21,

further comprising a memory to store predetermined alarm rules, and

wherein said signal processing unit further includes an alarm unit, coupled to said memory and to the data processing unit, to monitor the information data derived from the input signals in accordance with the predetermined alarm rules.

24. (previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 23, further comprising an alarm archive to store information on alarms that have occurred.

25. (previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 21, wherein the signal processing unit further includes a monitoring unit, coupled to said at least one input interface, to perform direct monitoring of at least one of the input signals and the information data.

26. (canceled).

27. (previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 16, further comprising a GPS interface to connect the apparatus to a GPS receiver.

28. (previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein the input signals are operating data relating to one of a vehicle and a machine.

29. (previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 28, wherein the apparatus is integrated in one of a car radio receiver and a car radio receiver/mobile telephone appliance.

30. (previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein said transmitting/receiving unit transmits the output data to at least one of the control center and a predetermined receiver.

31. (canceled).